

Minutes
**Labor-Management Advisory Council on
Workers' Compensation**

March 16, 2007

1:30-2:30 pm

Advisory council members present: Jason Miller, Jerry Keck, Bill Dahlgren, Jacquie Helt, Annette Hoffman, Dan Lee, Riley Johnson, Don Judge, Connie Welsh.

Advisory council members excused: Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, Doug Buman, Bob Worthington.

I. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the March 9th conference call and today's agenda were approved.

II. Status of Workers' Compensation Bills

Jerry Keck described how bills approved by the Advisory Council and passed by the Legislature were presented to the Governor for signature. Council members discussed the bill approval process. It was agreed to continue the process discussion at the next meeting.

- HB 65, Revise uninsured employer's subsequent injury fund – Being transmitted to the Governor; already acted on.
- HB 72, Revise professional employer organization law – Transmitted to the Governor; already acted on.
- HB 738, Revise work comp law for claim closure and medical services rates – Not scheduled in committee; no action taken.
- HB 785, Exempting certain athletes from workers' compensation – Not scheduled in committee; no action taken.
- HB 786, Exempt from work comp law certain motor carriers – Not scheduled in committee; no action taken.
- SB 97, Clarify handling of highway patrol work comp claims – Being transmitted to the Governor; already acted on.
- SB 108 – Revise work comp laws-ind. contractors-med. fees-impaired insurers-etc. – Heard in House committee on March 16; already acted on.
- SB 214, Independent contractor exemption for certain corporate officers – Hearing scheduled for March 21; already acted on.
- SB 426, Revise attorney fees for medical benefits in work comp cases – Hearing scheduled for March 21; Don Judge moved, Riley Johnson seconded that the Advisory Council endorse this bill. After discussion which indicated the majority of council members did not wish to act on this bill at this time, Don withdrew the motion.
- SB 444, Revise APRN treating of injured workers – Not scheduled in committee; already acted on.

V. Agenda Items for Advisory Council Meeting in May

The next onsite meeting is scheduled for afternoon of May 15, following the NCCI State Advisory Forum.

- Summary of insurer financial results by Mari Kindberg of the State Auditor's Office
- Summary of legislative action

- Safety/incident rate modeling
- Workers' compensation exemptions and cost shifting
- Regulation of claims examiners

VI. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

VII. Next Steps

Next conference call: Friday, March 23 1:30 – 3:00 pm.

Next Advisory Council meeting (onsite) – Tuesday, May 15, 1:30 pm

For the complete discussions, download or listen online to the meeting recording at <http://erd.dli.mt.gov/wcstudyproject/labormngmntadvisorycouncilmeetinginfo.asp>